

**MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS** Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March 19  
**EIGHTH SUNDAY Ordinary Time C Day of Prayer for the Unemployed 3.3.2019**

Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> 6.00pm Don Golden RIP (Christie)  
Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> 9.00am Kathleen & Ed Maher RIP Anniv. (Maher)  
March 11.00am The People our Parish  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> St Casimir, Prince  
9.00am Holy Souls  
Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> 9.00am Private Intention  
Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> **ASH WEDNESDAY IS A DAY OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE**  
Ash Wednesday 10.00am Holy Souls RIP  
8.00pm People of our Parish  
Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> 9.00am Holy Souls  
Friday 8<sup>th</sup> 9.00am Private Intention

**FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT (C)** 10<sup>th</sup> March 2019

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> 6.00pm Patricia McAniskey RIP (Murray)  
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> 9.00am Maura Tubridy RIP (Anniv)  
11.00am Fran Faulkner RIP Recently (Darcy)

**SACRAMENT of PENANCE: Saturday 11am to 12 noon & 5.15 to 5.40pm**  
**MORNING PRAYER of DIVINE OFFICE 15 minutes before weekday Mass**  
**BLESSED SACRAMENT: Prayer & Adoration for 1 hour after weekday Mass**

**PARISH MASS BOOK: Eight Sunday in Ordinary Time C 3 March 2019**

Page 7 The Beginning of Mass Page 69 Preface 3: Salvation of man by man  
Page 144 Collect & Readings Page 28 Eucharistic Prayer 3  
Page 11 The Creed Page 43 The Communion Rite,  
Page 14 Preparation of Gifts Page 146 Post Communion Prayer

**PRAY FOR OUR SICK IN HOSPITAL & AT HOME: Please inform a Priest or Hospital Chaplain if you, your relative or a parishioner is ill in hospital or at home so they will have visits from a priest and receive the Sacraments.**

**OFFERINGS: Thank you for your generosity last weekend with Offertories of £630.18, and Standing Orders £800. CAFOD £40.00.**

**BAKE SALE this Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March after 9am and 11am Masses. Donations of cakes and baked goods welcome. Proceeds go to the church.**

**SVP RAFFLE:** This weekend at all Masses members of the St. Vincent De Paul Society in our parish will sell tickets for their annual raffle with prizes of £3,000, £2,000 and £1,000. This is a good way of supporting the very important work of this society at local and national level. **Tickets are £1 each or £5 for a book.**

**FOR HALL BOOKINGS** contact Arnold Verrall, preferably by telephone, on 01992 001995 (dial 01992 even in Epping) or mobile 07764404813 or by email [arnold\\_verrall@email.com](mailto:arnold_verrall@email.com). **Preferential rates for parishioners & charities.**

**The Immaculate Conception Catholic Church**



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Registered Charity Number: 234092

*Our parish is twinned with Thistle Grove/Lebohang Parish in the Diocese of Dundee, South Africa*

**EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME C 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2019**

*My dear Friends,*

“Do not praise a person before he or she has spoken, since this is the test of a person” (Ecclesiasticus 27:4-7). When Jesus had been arrested Peter went into the courtyard of the high priest where he was accused of being a follower of our Lord. When Peter denied that he knew Jesus as servant girl said to him, “you are a Galilean, why your accent gives you away”. Our accents say a lot about us, but what we actually speak tells even more about us, “for the test of a person is in their conversation ... and a man’s words betray what he feels”.

Jesus takes this up in the Gospel when he says that “a man’s words flow out of what fills their hearts” (Luke 6:39-45). A genuine and heartfelt love of God and of people will be reflected in our thoughts, words and actions. Where there is an absence of love there is an absence of understanding, and a failure to be merciful and compassionate to others. St Augustine said, “give me someone who loves me and he or she will understand me”. The inadequacy of our love, particularly when it requires personal sacrifice, often leads us to focus on the petty faults and shortcomings of others, rather than our own. Jesus tells us to look inwards to our own faults, and not to look outwards focusing on the faults of others, which may well be minor in comparison to our own failings, and to which we can be blind.

We start the season of Lent this week on Ash Wednesday. It is a season of grace when we are called to focus on God with prayer and penance, and the needs of people through our sharing of our time, our possessions and ourselves. Please make a special effort to do something extra in your spiritual journey through Lent this year. There are simple and practical things we can do during Lent that will strengthen our relationship with God, bring us an increase of holiness and grace, and be a help to those in need. Let us seize those opportunities in this holy season of grace as part of our responsibilities as Christians.

We thank Bishop Alan for visiting our parish last Sunday and celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation for eleven young people in our parish. We offer our congratulations to them, their parents and families, as they go forward in a faith journey with the power of the Holy Spirit, and an enrichment of their faith. We are most grateful to James & Mary Ryan and Tom Day, the Catechists, who gave much time and effort to prepare the young people for their Confirmation.

*May the Lord bless and guide us in our spiritual journey. Fr John*

### LENT BEGINNING ON ASH WEDNESDAY – 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019

On Ash Wednesday Masses in our church will be at 10am and 8.00pm with the blessing and distribution of ashes at both Masses.

Ash Wednesday is a day when we should fast or make some sacrifice and also abstain from eating meat or meat products.

On the Wednesdays in Lent weekday Mass in our Church will be 12.15pm: which may enable people who cannot come to 9am weekday Mass to attend.

On the Fridays in Lent Mass will be at 9am, and at 7.30pm with Stations of the Cross. On the Sundays of Lent Stations of the Cross will be at 6pm.

**CONFIRMATION:** Congratulations to the 11 young parishioners: Erin, Imogen, Roisin, Ellen, Katy, Orla, Alex, Charles, Eoin, Grace and Ruby who received the Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Alan in our parish last Sunday. They will be presented with their Confirmation Certificates at Saturday evening Mass on 16<sup>th</sup> March and have a celebratory meal afterwards in the town.

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION:** The next preparation session for the children is on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March at 5.45pm** in the Hall.

**CHILDREN'S LITURGY:** We urgently require helpers for Children's Liturgy at 11am Sunday Masses. No experience is required. Books and materials are provided. There is a rota so helpers can choose the dates they are able to cover. Please contact Norah Nolan if you would like more information or think you might be able to help. Email – [jim.nolan@ntlworld.com](mailto:jim.nolan@ntlworld.com) or telephone 01992 577932.

**CAFOD LENT FAST:** Family Fast Day will be on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019**. CAFOD donation envelopes will be distributed at all Masses the previous weekend.

**LENT LUNCHES:** A chance to meet friends and support Christian Aid. Each Saturday in Lent one of the Churches in Epping offers a light lunch (soup, cheese, bread, tea or coffee) **from 12.30pm to 2pm**. A suggested donation is £3 for Christian Aid. Please bring your friends. Everyone is welcome! The first lunch will take place on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> March** at the Methodist Church, High Street, Epping.

**PARISH HALL COMMITTEE:** This small committee manages our Parish Hall very effectively, and meets on a Wednesday evening about 4 times a year. We need some more and new members. If you would like to help, please contact Fr John or Paul, the Chairman at the Parish Office by phone, note or e-mail.

### **IS GOD CALLING YOU TO BE A PRIEST?**

There is a monthly vocations group for those who would like to find out more about a possible vocation to the priesthood. There will be a talk, time of prayer and some food. The sessions take place at St Edmund of Canterbury church, 9 Traps Hill, Loughton, IG10 1SZ. Tuesdays: 5/3; 2/4; 7/5; 4/6; 2/7

Please contact Fr Mark Swires, Vocations Promoter for more information: [vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org](mailto:vocprom@dioceseofbrentwood.org)



### **A SPECIAL INVITATION**

**Deacon Duncan and Dorothy Whitehouse** invite parishioners to join them in the **Parish Hall on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March between 12 & 1.30pm** at a **'Cake and Bubbly' Reception to celebrate their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary.**

All very welcome, including those attending earlier Masses.

**BRENTWOOD CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY** has several charity places for The Vitality London 10K run on **Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2019**. This event has a lovely atmosphere in many of London's iconic landmarks, finishing in front of Buckingham Palace.. We ask for a pledge to raise a minimum sponsorship of £100 before Gift Aid. Further information, please contact Julie at [jabbott@bccs.org.uk](mailto:jabbott@bccs.org.uk) or 07912 277413.

**A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:** The Diocesan Catholic Charismatic Renewal Service Team are organising A Day of Renewal themed 'The Love of Jesus' which will be held on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2019** at Blessed Sacrament Parish, 116 Melbourne Avenue, Chelmsford from 10am until 4pm. Our speaker will be Charles Whitehead and the day will finish with Mass at 3pm. Coffee and tea will be provided but please bring a packed lunch."

**LENT RETREAT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE:** if you are school year 10-13 and would like some peace and space to prepare for Holy Week, along with the joy of being on retreat with our magnificent Walsingham House at Abbotswick Team, join us for the Lenten retreat **8pm Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> – 3pm Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April**. £35 includes accommodation and meals. Details at [www.bcys.net/events](http://www.bcys.net/events)

**SPONSORED SLEEPOUT; CAN YOU GIVE ONE NIGHT OF YOUR LIFE TO CHANGE NIGHTS FOR OTHERS NEXT WINTER?** Since November hundreds of people in Essex and East London have found warmth, food and shelter in church halls and other projects supported by our church. Could you get sponsors (anything from £10 to £1000 and sleep outside for one night to help support this work next winter? **Fri 12<sup>th</sup>- Sat 13<sup>th</sup> April**, in the grounds of Walsingham House at Abbotswick. Details at [www.bcys.net/events](http://www.bcys.net/events).

**PARISH CONCERT/SOCIAL NIGHT with the ELEVATORS** a band with two very talented parishioners, Sheila & Steve Earl. Following a very successful parish fundraising gig in January 18, The Elevators return to play on **Saturday 6 July 2019**. Doors open **7.15pm for 8pm** start. Tickets £7 and £3 for under 16s. Dance the night away to classics by Bowie, Blondie, the Beatles, Bryan Adams & many more. Please bring your own food & drinks. **Ticket details later.**